

MINUTES OF THE NORTH WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 4th JUNE 2026 - held at 7.00pm in the VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors Blackmore (chair), Marshall-Grint, Border, Harper, Thomas, Edwards, Quick
Also in attendance - Clerk Rachel Curtis, 6 members of the public, Borough Cllrs Ring and Coates and
County Cllr Jacque Fry

1. **Apologies** – Cllrs Lamb, Scott, Blood – holiday. Cllr Hemeter – family matters. Borough Cllr Bland – prior engagement,.
2. **Declarations of Interest** - None
3. To co-opt a new Councillor
The Clerk reported that the interested party did not meet the eligibility criteria at present.
4. **To agree the Minutes of last meeting held on Thursday 14th May** - It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on Thursday 14th May 2026 be accepted.

5. Matters Arising

- Cllr Blackmore has spoken with Anglian Water and requested that a representative meets with the PC and residents of Manor Road to discuss issues face to face. It is the intention of the PC to escalate this matter further until queries raised are satisfactorily answered.

- Cllr Blackmore has spoken to Leopold Stolberg Eau Brink Farms and read out the following report.
Meeting with Leopold Stolberg Eau Brink Farms GmbH.

I met with Farm manager Leopold and his colleague Johannes on Wednesday to discuss concerns raised by villagers regarding the volume and frequency of farm traffic through the village with specific reference to the size of lorries and their effect on village life and particularly on Manor Road's integrity.

Leopold was not unaware of these concerns although expressed some regret that the first time it came to his attention was via a piece in the newspaper prompted by local resident's complaint. He wondered why no one had contacted the farm first. It's worth noting that he is as unhappy with the route through the village as are the villagers; while we dislike the big lorries coming through our narrow streets, his job is made more challenging by parked cars.

Having said that Leopold is ready and very willing to do all he can on behalf of the company to minimise the disruption caused by the lorries and show appreciation for the cooperation of the villagers. What he cannot do is halt the traffic when the sugar beet needs to be transported, nor can he re-route or use smaller lorries.

Part of the charm of North Wootton is its rural aspect which will be supported and maintained by its thriving local agriculture. Accepting the fact that the farm is our neighbour, that for it to function commercially it must move the harvest from its fields, that the roads are a public right of way with no restrictions, and that we need to coexist as amicably as possible, the aim of my meeting was to find ways of improving communication with the farm and understand better its activities and challenges.

Here are the action points from our meeting:

- Leopold agreed to keep me informed when the sugar beet transportation begins (end of November) and keep me informed as it proceeds with a view to warning us of periods of particularly heavy traffic; this information will be shared with the village.
- He has already agreed to halt movements for any particularly sensitive social events involving the church or similar.
- He agreed to make sure his transport contractors are reminded to exercise speed restraint and courtesy through the village.

- He is in favour of our suggestion to hold an **Open Day** at the farm so that villagers will be able to see exactly what they do out there. This is likely to be in October/November and include food (maybe a BBQ).
- He would also be in favour of school visits or maybe having someone talk about their work to the local school.
- The company is well-known for its philanthropy and has already donated €1M to the Shakespeare Theatre project in Kings Lynn. Leopold said they would be interested in supporting a project that needed funds in the village.
- Finally, it's worth noting that Leopold does not believe his lorries are the cause the problems with the sewer in Manor Road. He referenced the recent works which took place months after the last lorry had passed over it.
- The Clerk has been advised by the Borough Council to apply for a lawful development certificate in order to proceed with the project of the bus shelter on All Saints Drive. It was noted that the shelter is made and is being stored by the engineering company.

6. Law and Order

Cllr Hemeter was not present at the meeting, but sent a note to say that there had been further reports of youths on e-bikes which has been reported to the PCSO's.

7. Open Forum

Bor Cllr Ring reported that at the time of the meeting the Kings Lynn Master Plan consultation was still open. He had recently attended the UK Real Estate Forum with over 16,000 delegates in attendance, the event was very positive and contact made with several organisations. There has been support to form a Kings Lynn Town Council where members could be elected in May 2027. There is opposition from County Administration to LGR. However, the new boundary maps have been released and North Wootton would be part of one of the smaller wards in the area. The Police and Crime Commissioner has resigned, this will force an election to be held next month. New planning rules will come into effect in October 2026, there will be less frequent planning committees, no call-ins from Councillors and most applications will be decided by delegated officers. There are Parish Update sessions coming up to explain these changes. There is a new community fund in place and Borough Council land could become available within Parishes to be taken over by Parishes Councils.

8. Correspondence

Correspondence 1 – Anglian Water – confirmation that recent works were to rectify a recent defect – see matters arising.

Correspondence 2 – A resident – concerns regarding the AWA works on Manor Road – see matters arising.

9. Finance

BALANCE b/fwd.		52,084.63	
Online	Norfolk ALC Membership Fee	530.71	
Online	Liz Manning - Audit Fee	150.00	
Online	Nurture - May 26	753.19	
Online	Veolia - March Invoice	140.02	
Online	Veolia - April Invoice	191.81	
Online	Veolia - May Invoice	142.82	
Online	R Curtis Salary June 26	597.66	
Online	R Curtis Tax and Emp NI	165.33	
Online	Total Energies - April 26	1,516.93	
		4,188.47	
			47,896.16

Made up as follows

Lloyds Treasurers Account

47,896.16

47,896.16

To Agree the annual AGAR report

The Clerk read out the statements on page 4 of the report which were all agreed by Councillors and confirmed that the closing balance of the PC for 2025/26 is £30,609.00

10. Highways

- Nothing new to report.

11. Wootton Park

- There has been no progress on the installation of the telemast.
- The correspondence from a resident last month detailing their concerns about the use of the Park by the football club was given consideration of each point. The WPA are happy that the football club are taking on board the matters raised and striving to work with the PC's to maintain a good relationship.
- Picnic on the Park will take place on 6th June 2026.
- The Football Club have been asked to give the WPA plenty of notice of events they wish to hold on the Park – their next tournament is scheduled for 11th/12th July.
- Costs of the last 2 water bills for the Pavilion are high – this is being investigated by Cllr Border and SWPC Clerk.

12. Streetlighting

Quotes have been received from the street lighting contractor for the work (upon the residents request) to move the streetlight outside 1 Tyndale. Still awaiting costs from UK Power Network. It was agreed that once the resident is ready to progress this, they are billed for the costs before instructing the contractor to proceed.

13. Planning

Applications considered - none

Decisions made by the Borough

26/00521/F – Single storey side extension and new porch – 5 Gregory Close PE30 3SY

Application refused at planning committee meeting held on 1st June 2026, due to concern that the extension is not in keeping with the surrounding area.

14. Village Hall

The village markets continue to be successful and the finances are sound. A new fire alarm system has been installed.

15. The Village

- May 2026 SAM data

The signage was on Ling Common Road 1-27 May, capturing traffic as it entered the village from Castle Rising.

Volume 748 average daily [20,197 month], Peak hour 17:00-18:00hrs

Average speed 27.9mph, 85th perceptible 33.5mph, Top speed of 65mph

In line with previous observations, this is the most common over the speed limit of recorded speeds.

The signage remains on Ling Common Road for June, capturing traffic as it leaves the village.

- The defib was taken by a local resident in a recent emergency, however it has now been returned used.

- A quote was received by a local tradesman to replace the bench around the tree at the war memorial.

However, the cost is high and a cheaper bench can be sourced from Sandringham Saw Mill for £600.

There will be additional costs for some groundworks. It was proposed by Cllr Border to proceed with this option and seconded by Cllr Harper and all agreed. Cllr Border to organise.

- The Borough Council has confirmed that works can be carried out to the tree outside Silvertrees. Cllr Border to contact the tree surgeon and programme this in when he is next on the Park doing work.
- A financial contribution to the CIL project at the Scout Hut was discussed. Cllr Border proposed a donation of £1,500, this was seconded by Cllr Blackmore and unanimously agreed. Cllr Paul Bland had sent his thanks prior to the meeting to the PC for consideration of a donation.
- The Clerk confirmed that the area of land outside Pinfold is registered village green and therefore the resident is unable to open up their driveway onto this as requested.

16. Open Forum

A member of the public commented that the area opposite the brick bus shelter (the boundary to Wootton Park on Priory Lane) is unsightly. This will be taken to the next WPA meeting to organise a clean up of the area.

17. To confirm any items for the future agenda

Annual review of policies and procedures

The meeting finished at 8.07pm

..... Chairman

Date 2nd July 2026